

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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P R 231131 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8171

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT CAIRO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, IS, LE

SUBJ: ISRAELI REACTION TO UNSC RESOLUTION ON BEIRUT RAID

1. ISRAELI REACTION TO APRIL 21 UNSC RESOLUTION ON BEIRUT RAID WAS RESTRAINED AND TRANSIENT. AFTERNOON PAPERS APRIL 22 DID NOT EVEN CARRY STORY AS FRONT PAGE ITEM. RADIO AND TELEVISION LARGELY REFRAINED FROM COMMENTARY ON DEBATE AND RESOLUTION, BUT RADIO HIGHLIGHTED EFFECTIVE US EFFORTS TO PREVENT EXTREME RESOLUTION. TONE OF PRESS COMMENTARY WAS SET BY FONMIN EBAN WHO APRIL 21 REPORTEDLY PRAISED US CONSISTENCY IN OPPOSING TOUGH DRAFT AND SAID THAT EGYPT HAD NOT BENEFITED BY UNSC RESOLUTION.

2. FONMIN EBAN WAS QUOTED BY PRESS AS SAYING: " ONLY THE US SHOWED CONSISTENCY IN ITS PRINCIPLES FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END OF THE DEBATE, AND IT WAS THANKS ONLY TO THE US THAT THREATS AND WARNINGS AGAINST ISRAEL - FOR DARING NOT TO SURRENDER TO THE PLAGUE OF TERRORISM - WERE AVOIDED. FURTHERMORE, THE US WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCLUSION OF A

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PARAGRAPH WHICH IS INTERPRETED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS A CONDEMNATION OF ARAB TERRORISM - THOUGH NOT AS SPECIFIC ALLY AS WOULD HAVE BEEN DESIRABLE. THE DEBATE SERVED NO PURPOSE FOR EGYPT, WHICH INITIATED IT, NOR FOR EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER EL- ZAYYAT, WHO JOURNEYED TO NEW YORK ESPECIALLY FOR THE OCCASION. THE DEBATE PROVED THAT PEACE WILL NOT BE ADVANCED BY INTERNATIONAL POLEMICS BUT BY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES."

3. JERUSALEM POST APRIL 22 CLAIMED THAT OFFICIALS IN JERUSALEM WERE WELL SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE DEBATE. POST SAID THAT GOI OFFICIALS CONSIDERED RESOLUTION A DEFEAT FOR EGYPT AND LEBANON WHO HOPED TO SECURE A TOUGH RESOLUTION AGAINST ISRAEL FORCING US TO VETO IT. POST SAID THAT OBSERVERS COULD NOT RECALL SUCH A WEAK CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL AFTER AN IDF ACTION AGAINST A NEIGHBORING STATE.

4. MAARIV' S NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT BEN WROTE ONE OF THE FEW ARTICLES ON DEBATE WHICH HINTED THAT ISRAEL WAS NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH US ABSTENTION IN UNSC VOTE. BEN COMMENTED THAT AMBASSADOR TEKOA' S HARSH FINAL SPEECH BEFORE VOTE WAS INTENDED TO REMIND USG OF ITS PROMISE TO VETO ANY ONE-SIDED RESOLUTION. BEN CLAIMED THAT USG HAD DECIDED ON FRIDAY TO ABSTAIN TO PREVENT FURTHER TERRORIST ATTACKS ON US DIPLOMATS AND ON US OIL INTERESTS.

5. DAVAR EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT GREATEST DANGER OF UNSC DEBATE AND RESOLUTION WAS THAT IT WOULD ENCOURAGE TERRORISM. EDITORIAL PROMISED THAT ISRAEL WILL RESPOND TO UNSC CALL WHEN THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED TO DEFEND THE STATE AND ITS PEOPLE. HAARETZ EDITORIAL EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT UK' S POSITION IN DEBATE AND SAID THAT ITS EFFORTS TO WIN POPULARITY IN ARAB COUNTRIES COULD BOOMERANG IN FORM OF TERRORISM IN NORTH IRELAND AND ENGLAND. DEVAR AND HAARETZ BOTH CLAIMED THAT UNSC ACTION HAD STRENGTHENED OPINION THAT UN IS NOT CAPABLE OF BRINGING PEACE TO MIDDLE EAST. DEVAR CONCLUDED THAT RESOLUTION AND DEBATE ONLY REINFORCED ISRAELI POSITION THAT THERE CAN BE NO PROGRESS ON MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT WITHOUT PRIOR CESSATION OF TERRORISM EMANATING FROM ARAB STATES.

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